S413 **Vehicle Backing**

*Policy:*

*An ESFD driver will use the assistance of a Spotter whenever backing any ESFD vehicle*

Procedure

The spotter will be in **back of the vehicle** and **clearly visible** in the driver’s side rearview mirror.

1. The Driver is responsible for the Walk-Around of the vehicle to watch for compartment doors not being closed or equipment left out.
2. The Spotter will walk around the vehicle and check area to assure safe backing.
3. At dark, the work light may be turned on for better visibility.
4. The Spotter will stay a safe distance from the vehicle. Normally, a safe distance is considered as a minimum of 20 feet.
5. Driver will watch spotter at all times. The driver and the spotter shall never lose visual contact in the rear view mirror. If driver and spotter lose visual contact, the driver must stop the vehicle **immediately** and will not resume backward movement until visual contact has been regained.
6. **NEVER** get between a tender and a dump tank or other stationary objects until the spotter has confirmed with the driver of the vehicle that it is in neutral and the emergency brake is on and the spotter has chocked the wheels.

**Signals:**

* Spotter will use the lit signal wand, held steady at varying angles, to show the driver the direction of travel for the vehicle.
* The extra hand may point to show direction.
* In most situations, handheld radios should be used for verbal communication.
* The signal to stop is by waving the wand.